

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
Form 19b-4

File No. * SR 2024 - * 25

Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)

Filing by NYSE Chicago, Inc.

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>
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Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Expires * <input type="text"/>	Rule		
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010
Section 806(e)(1) *

Section 806(e)(2) *

Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 3C(b)(2) *

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document

Description

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).

Proposal to modify Rule 7.31

Contact Information

Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name * Le-Anh Last Name * Bui

Title * Senior Counsel, NYSE Group Inc.

E-mail * Le-Anh.Bui@ice.com

Telephone * (202) 661-8953 Fax (212) 656-8101

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, NYSE Chicago, Inc. has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date 07/25/2024

(Title *)

By David De Gregorio

Associate General Counsel

(Name *)

David De Gregorio

Digitally signed by David De Gregorio
Date: 2024.07.25 17:23:54 -04'00'

NOTE: Clicking the signature block at right will initiate digitally signing the form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and astericks.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

Form 19b-4 Information *

Add Remove View

19b-4 NYSE Chicago MPL-ALO Price

The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change *

Add Remove View

Ex. 1 19b-4 NYSE Chicago MPL-ALO

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies *

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

Add Remove View

Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

Add Remove View

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies

Add Remove View

The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text

Add Remove View

Ex. 5 - NYSE Chicago - MPL-ALO Price

The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change

Partial Amendment

Add Remove View

If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

- (a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² NYSE Chicago, Inc. (“NYSE Chicago” or the “Exchange”) proposes to modify Rule 7.31 regarding MPL-ALO Orders.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

- (b) The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any direct effect, or any significant indirect effect, on any other Exchange rule in effect at the time of this filing.
- (c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

Senior management has approved the proposed rule change pursuant to authority delegated to it by the Board of the Exchange. No further action is required under the Exchange’s governing documents. Therefore, the Exchange’s internal procedures with respect to the proposed change are complete.

The person on the Exchange staff prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change is:

Le-Anh Bui
Senior Counsel
NYSE Group, Inc.
(202) 661-8953

3. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

- (a) Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7.31 regarding MPL-ALO Orders.

Rule 7.31(d)(3) defines a Mid-Point Liquidity Order (“MPL Order”) as a Limit Order to buy (sell) that is not displayed and does not route, with a working price at the lower (higher) of the midpoint of the PBBO or its limit price. An MPL Order is ranked Priority 3 - Non-Display Orders and is valid for any session.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(A) provides that an MPL Order to buy (sell) must be designated with a limit price in the MPV for the security and will be eligible to trade at the working price of the order.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(B) provides that if there is no PBB, PBO, or the PBBO is locked or crossed, both an arriving and resting MPL Order will wait for a PBBO that is not locked or crossed before being eligible to trade. If a resting MPL Order to buy (sell) trades with an MPL Order to sell (buy) after there is an unlocked or uncrossed PBBO, the MPL Order with the later working time will be the liquidity-removing order.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(C) provides that an Aggressing MPL Order to buy (sell) will trade at the working price of resting orders to sell (buy) when such resting orders have a working price at or below (above) the working price of the MPL Order. Resting MPL Orders to buy (sell) will trade against all Aggressing Orders to sell (buy) priced at or below (above) the working price of the MPL Order.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(D) provides that an MPL Order may be designated IOC (“MPL-IOC Order”). Subject to such IOC instructions, an MPL-IOC Order will follow the same trading and priority rules as an MPL Order, except that an MPL-IOC Order will be rejected if there is no PBBO or the PBBO is locked or crossed. An MPL-IOC Order cannot be designated ALO or with a Non-Display Remove Modifier.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E) and the subparagraphs thereunder define the MPL-ALO Order, which is an MPL Order designated with an ALO Modifier.³ An Aggressing⁴ MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) will trade at the working price of resting orders to sell (buy) when such resting orders have a working price below (above) the less aggressive of the midpoint of the PBBO or the limit price of the MPL-ALO Order, but will not trade with resting orders to sell (buy) priced equal to the less aggressive of the midpoint of the PBBO or the limit price of the MPL-ALO Order (Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(i)). If an MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) cannot trade with a same-priced resting order to sell (buy), a subsequently arriving order to sell (buy) eligible to trade at the working price of the MPL-ALO Order will trade ahead of a resting order to sell (buy) that is not displayed at that price; if such resting order to sell (buy) is displayed, the MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) will not be eligible to trade at that price (Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)). An MPL-ALO Order may not be designated with a Non-Display Remove Modifier (Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii)).

Proposed Rule Change

Currently, Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders to buy (sell) may trade with resting orders priced below (above) the less aggressive of the midpoint of the PBBO or the limit price

³ An ALO Order is a Non-Routable Limit Order that, unless it receives price improvement, will not remove liquidity from the Exchange Book. See NYSE Chicago Rule 7.31(e)(2).

⁴ An “Aggressing Order” is a buy (sell) order that is or becomes marketable against sell (buy) interest on the Exchange Book. A resting order may become an Aggressing Order if its working price changes, if the PBBO or NBBO is updated, because of changes to other orders on the Exchange Book, or when processing inbound messages. See Rule 7.36(a)(5).

of the MPL-ALO Order (i.e., priced below (above) the MPL-ALO Order's working price), regardless of the amount of price improvement the Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would receive. The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(i) to provide that an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would only be eligible to trade with resting orders when it would receive price improvement over the MPL-ALO Order's working price of at least one MPV. This proposed change would not impact non-Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders (e.g., MPL-ALO Orders resting on the Exchange Book). A non-Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would continue to provide liquidity at its working price unless it would not be eligible to trade as outlined in Rules 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)(a) and (b), as amended below.

The Exchange next proposes to amend Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii) to provide that an MPL-ALO Order not eligible to trade as described in proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(i) would be ranked in the Exchange Book at its working price and would not trade at that price if it would lock or cross displayed interest or cross non-displayed interest on the Exchange Book. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to add new Rules 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)(a) and (b) to provide that resting MPL-ALO Orders would not be eligible to trade (a) at a price equal to or above (below) any sell (buy) orders that are displayed and that have a working price equal to or below (above) the working price of the MPL-ALO Order, or (b) at a price above (below) any sell (buy) orders that are not displayed and that have a working price below (above) the working price of the MPL-ALO Order. The Exchange notes that the circumstances under which such orders would not be able to trade are consistent with the Exchange's existing priority and ranking rules.

The Exchange further proposes to renumber current Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii) as Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii) and to amend the text of the rule to provide that if an MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) cannot trade with a same-priced resting order to sell (buy) that is not displayed, a subsequently arriving order to sell (buy) eligible to trade at the working price of the MPL-ALO Order will trade ahead of such resting order to sell (buy). This proposed change is not intended to change the meaning of the rule, but rather to clarify that, if an MPL-ALO Order is resting at the same price as resting non-displayed interest, a subsequently arriving order that is eligible to trade with that MPL-ALO Order would, as currently, be permitted to trade ahead of such interest. The Exchange further proposes to delete the last sentence of current Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii), which provides that an MPL-ALO Order would not be eligible to trade at the price of a displayed resting order to buy (sell), as duplicative of proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)(a) described above.

The following example demonstrates how an arriving Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would trade or be ranked on the Exchange Book, as proposed:

- Assume the PBBO⁵ is \$10.00 x \$10.05 (midpoint is \$10.025). On the Exchange Book, there is a Limit Order to sell 90 shares at \$10.02 ("Order 1") and an MPL Order to sell 100 shares at \$10.00 ("Order 2"). Order 1 is displayed at its working

⁵ "Best Protected Bid" or "PBB" means the highest Protected Bid, "Best Protected Offer" or "PBO" means the lowest Protected Offer, and "Protected Best Bid and Offer" or "PBBO" means the Best Protected Bid and the Best Protected Offer, as those terms are defined in Rule 600(b)(57) of Regulation NMS. See Rule 1.1(n).

price of \$10.02. Order 2 is non-displayed and has a working price at the midpoint, \$10.025.

- Order 3 is an incoming MPL-ALO Order to buy 100 shares at \$10.05. Order 3, as an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order, would not trade with either Order 1 or Order 2 because it would receive less than \$0.01 price improvement over the midpoint. Pursuant to proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii), Order 3 would be ranked on the Exchange Book at its working price, \$10.025 (which is the midpoint, as the working price of an MPL-ALO Order to buy is the lower of the midpoint or the order's limit price).
- Order 4 is an incoming MPL-IOC Order to sell 100 shares at \$10.00. Order 4 would not trade with Order 3 (which is now ranked on the Exchange Book at its working price) at \$10.025 per proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)(a) because an execution at that price would be at a price above displayed interest on the Exchange Book (Order 1 at \$10.02). Order 4, as an IOC Order, would be cancelled because it does not execute.
- Assume Order 1 is cancelled, and Order 5 is an incoming MPL-IOC Order to sell 100 shares at \$10.00. Order 5 would trade with Order 3 (where Order 3 is the liquidity provider) at \$10.025, consistent with proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii), because the trade would execute at a price that is not above the price of any displayed or non-displayed interest on the Exchange Book, although it would be at the same price as Order 2 (non-displayed interest on the Exchange Book).⁶

The following example demonstrates how an MPL-ALO Order that is resting on the Exchange Book and subsequently becomes an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order (in this example, when the PBBO is updated) would trade, as proposed:

- Assume the PBBO is \$10.00 x \$10.05 (midpoint is \$10.025). Order 1 is a non-displayed Limit Order to sell 100 shares at \$10.03, resting on the Exchange Book at its working price of \$10.03. Order 2 is an MPL-ALO Order to buy 100 shares at \$10.05. Order 2 is resting non-displayed on the Exchange Book at its working price of \$10.025 (which is the midpoint, as the working price of an MPL-ALO Order to buy is the lower of the midpoint or the order's limit price).
- Assume the PBBO updates to \$10.03 x \$10.05 (midpoint is \$10.04). Order 2 reprices to the new midpoint, \$10.04, and becomes an Aggressing Order because its working price has changed and the PBBO has updated. Order 2 will trade as an Aggressing Order (as the liquidity taker) with Order 1 at \$10.03 because it would receive \$0.01 price improvement over its working price.

⁶ As noted above, Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii), as amended, reflects current Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii), which provides that an MPL-ALO Order that is resting at the same price as resting non-displayed interest would be permitted to trade with a subsequently arriving order that is eligible to trade with that MPL-ALO Order, ahead of the non-displayed interest.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to renumber current Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii) as Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iv) to reflect the addition of the new rule text described above, without any changes to the text of the rule.

The Exchange believes that the proposed change, which would allow an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order to trade only when it would receive price improvement over its working price of at least one MPV, would promote higher-quality executions for Participants and provide Participants with greater certainty regarding the amount of price improvement such executions would receive, thereby encouraging increased order flow to the Exchange and enhanced opportunities for order execution for all market participants. The Exchange notes that evaluating the economic benefit of an execution is not a novel concept on equity exchanges.⁷ Accordingly, the Exchange believes that this proposed change, which would consider the amount of price improvement that an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would receive upon execution, would offer Participants a similar benefit to that available on at least one other equity exchange for an order type similar to the MPL-ALO Order and could thus promote competition among equity exchanges.

Because of the technology changes associated with this proposed rule change, the Exchange will announce the implementation date by Trader Update, which, subject to effectiveness of this proposed rule change, will be no later than in the fourth quarter of 2024.

(b) Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁸ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),⁹ in particular, because it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange believes that the proposed change would promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system, and protect investors and the public interest because allowing an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order to trade only when it would receive price improvement over its working price of at least one MPV would promote higher-quality executions for Participants, thereby encouraging increased order flow to the

⁷ See, e.g., Nasdaq Stock Market LLC, Equity 4, Rule 4702(b)(5)(A) (defining the Midpoint Peg Post-Only Order, which is priced at the midpoint between the NBBO and will execute upon entry only in circumstances where economically beneficial to the party entering such order).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

Exchange and enhanced trading opportunities for all market participants. The Exchange also believes that the proposed conforming changes to Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E) would remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system, and protect investors and the public interest by clarifying how Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders that would not be eligible to trade based on the amount of price improvement would be ranked and would trade once resting, in accordance with the Exchange's priority and ranking rules. Finally, the Exchange notes that considering the economic benefit of an execution is not a novel concept and believes that this proposed change would remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system by providing Participants with greater certainty as to the amount of price improvement they would receive when an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order executes, as well as by promoting competition among equity exchanges.¹⁰

4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change would amend Exchange rules to permit Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders to trade only when they would receive price improvement of at least one MPV over their working price, thereby providing a minimum amount of price improvement for Participants entering such orders. To the extent the proposed rule change promotes higher-quality executions on the Exchange, the proposed change could encourage increased order flow to the Exchange and facilitate additional trading opportunities for all market participants. In addition, at least one other equity exchange considers the economic benefit to the entering party when evaluating whether a similar order type may trade, and the Exchange's proposal would thus promote competition among exchanges by providing a minimum amount of price improvement to Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders.¹¹ The Exchange also believes that, to the extent the proposed change would increase opportunities for order execution, the proposed change would promote competition by making the Exchange a more attractive venue for order flow and enhancing market quality for all market participants.

5. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants or Others

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

¹⁰ See note 7, *supra*.

¹¹ See note 7, *supra*.

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

The proposed rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹² and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹³ The Exchange asserts that the proposed rule change (i) will not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest, (ii) will not impose any significant burden on competition, and (iii) by its terms, will not become operative for 30 days after the date of this filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of the filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is a “non-controversial” rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4¹⁴ because it raises no novel issues. The concept of considering the economic benefit of an execution is not novel, and the Exchange believes that the proposed change would more closely align the Exchange’s handling of MPL-ALO Orders with treatment of similar order types on other equity exchanges. The Exchange further believes that the proposed change is non-controversial because it would not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest or impose any significant burden on competition; rather, the proposed change is intended to encourage increased order flow to the Exchange by permitting Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders to trade only when they would receive price improvement of at least one MPV over their working price, thereby offering meaningful price improvement to Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders. The Exchange further believes that the proposed change would promote just and equitable principles of trading by supporting higher-quality executions and enhanced order execution opportunities for all market participants.

The Exchange respectfully requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay, so that the proposed rule change may become effective and operative upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder. Waiver of the 30-day operative delay would allow the Exchange to implement the proposed change as soon as the associated technology is available, which is anticipated to be less than 30 days from the date of this filing. The Exchange believes that waiver of the operative delay would be consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because the proposed change presents no novel issues and would instead allow the Exchange to provide Participants with greater certainty regarding the amount of price improvement their Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders would receive as soon as the technology for the proposed change could be implemented. Waiver of the operative delay would allow the Exchange to make the proposed change more promptly,

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁴ Id.

thereby promoting higher-quality executions and encouraging increased order flow to the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

Not applicable.

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act

Not applicable.

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – Form of Notice of Proposed Rule Change for Federal Register

Exhibit 5 – Text of Proposed Rule Change

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-NYSECHX-2024-25)

[Date]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Chicago, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Modify Rule 7.31

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)¹ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that, on July 25, 2024, the NYSE Chicago, Inc. (“NYSE Chicago” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to modify Rule 7.31 regarding MPL-ALO Orders. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at www.nyse.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the places

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7.31 regarding MPL-ALO Orders.

Rule 7.31(d)(3) defines a Mid-Point Liquidity Order (“MPL Order”) as a Limit Order to buy (sell) that is not displayed and does not route, with a working price at the lower (higher) of the midpoint of the PBBO or its limit price. An MPL Order is ranked Priority 3 - Non-Display Orders and is valid for any session.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(A) provides that an MPL Order to buy (sell) must be designated with a limit price in the MPV for the security and will be eligible to trade at the working price of the order.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(B) provides that if there is no PBB, PBO, or the PBBO is locked or crossed, both an arriving and resting MPL Order will wait for a PBBO that is not locked or crossed before being eligible to trade. If a resting MPL Order to buy (sell) trades with an MPL Order to sell (buy) after there is an unlocked or uncrossed PBBO, the MPL Order with the later working time will be the liquidity-removing order.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(C) provides that an Aggressing MPL Order to buy (sell) will trade at the working price of resting orders to sell (buy) when such resting orders have a working price at or below (above) the working price of the MPL Order. Resting MPL Orders to buy (sell) will trade against all Aggressing Orders to sell (buy) priced at or below (above) the working price of the MPL Order.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(D) provides that an MPL Order may be designated IOC (“MPL-IOC Order”). Subject to such IOC instructions, an MPL-IOC Order will follow the same trading and priority rules as an MPL Order, except that an MPL-IOC Order will be rejected if there is no PBBO or the PBBO is locked or crossed. An MPL-IOC Order cannot be designated ALO or with a Non-Display Remove Modifier.

Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E) and the subparagraphs thereunder define the MPL-ALO Order, which is an MPL Order designated with an ALO Modifier.⁴ An Aggressing⁵ MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) will trade at the working price of resting orders to sell (buy) when such resting orders have a working price below (above) the less aggressive of the midpoint of the PBBO or the limit price of the MPL-ALO Order, but will not trade with resting orders to sell (buy) priced equal to the less aggressive of the midpoint of the PBBO or the limit price of the MPL-ALO Order (Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(i)). If an MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) cannot trade with a same-priced resting order to sell (buy), a subsequently arriving order to sell (buy) eligible to trade at the working price of the MPL-ALO Order will trade ahead of a resting order to sell (buy) that is not displayed at that price; if such resting order to sell (buy) is displayed, the MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) will not be eligible to trade at that price (Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)). An MPL-ALO Order may not be designated with a Non-Display Remove Modifier (Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii)).

Proposed Rule Change

Currently, Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders to buy (sell) may trade with resting orders priced below (above) the less aggressive of the midpoint of the PBBO or the limit price of the MPL-ALO

⁴ An ALO Order is a Non-Routable Limit Order that, unless it receives price improvement, will not remove liquidity from the Exchange Book. See NYSE Chicago Rule 7.31(e)(2).

⁵ An “Aggressing Order” is a buy (sell) order that is or becomes marketable against sell (buy) interest on the Exchange Book. A resting order may become an Aggressing Order if its working price changes, if the PBBO or NBBO is updated, because of changes to other orders on the Exchange Book, or when processing inbound messages. See Rule 7.36(a)(5).

Order (i.e., priced below (above) the MPL-ALO Order's working price), regardless of the amount of price improvement the Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would receive. The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(i) to provide that an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would only be eligible to trade with resting orders when it would receive price improvement over the MPL-ALO Order's working price of at least one MPV. This proposed change would not impact non-Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders (e.g., MPL-ALO Orders resting on the Exchange Book). A non-Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would continue to provide liquidity at its working price unless it would not be eligible to trade as outlined in Rules 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)(a) and (b), as amended below.

The Exchange next proposes to amend Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii) to provide that an MPL-ALO Order not eligible to trade as described in proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(i) would be ranked in the Exchange Book at its working price and would not trade at that price if it would lock or cross displayed interest or cross non-displayed interest on the Exchange Book. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to add new Rules 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)(a) and (b) to provide that resting MPL-ALO Orders would not be eligible to trade (a) at a price equal to or above (below) any sell (buy) orders that are displayed and that have a working price equal to or below (above) the working price of the MPL-ALO Order, or (b) at a price above (below) any sell (buy) orders that are not displayed and that have a working price below (above) the working price of the MPL-ALO Order. The Exchange notes that the circumstances under which such orders would not be able to trade are consistent with the Exchange's existing priority and ranking rules.

The Exchange further proposes to renumber current Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii) as Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii) and to amend the text of the rule to provide that if an MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) cannot trade with a same-priced resting order to sell (buy) that is not displayed, a subsequently arriving order to sell (buy) eligible to trade at the working price of the MPL-ALO

Order will trade ahead of such resting order to sell (buy). This proposed change is not intended to change the meaning of the rule, but rather to clarify that, if an MPL-ALO Order is resting at the same price as resting non-displayed interest, a subsequently arriving order that is eligible to trade with that MPL-ALO Order would, as currently, be permitted to trade ahead of such interest. The Exchange further proposes to delete the last sentence of current Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii), which provides that an MPL-ALO Order would not be eligible to trade at the price of a displayed resting order to buy (sell), as duplicative of proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)(a) described above.

The following example demonstrates how an arriving Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would trade or be ranked on the Exchange Book, as proposed:

- Assume the PBBO⁶ is \$10.00 x \$10.05 (midpoint is \$10.025). On the Exchange Book, there is a Limit Order to sell 90 shares at \$10.02 (“Order 1”) and an MPL Order to sell 100 shares at \$10.00 (“Order 2”). Order 1 is displayed at its working price of \$10.02. Order 2 is non-displayed and has a working price at the midpoint, \$10.025.
- Order 3 is an incoming MPL-ALO Order to buy 100 shares at \$10.05. Order 3, as an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order, would not trade with either Order 1 or Order 2 because it would receive less than \$0.01 price improvement over the midpoint. Pursuant to proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii), Order 3 would be ranked on the Exchange Book at its working price, \$10.025 (which is the midpoint, as the working price of an MPL-ALO Order to buy is the lower of the midpoint or the order’s limit price).

⁶ “Best Protected Bid” or “PBB” means the highest Protected Bid, “Best Protected Offer” or “PBO” means the lowest Protected Offer, and “Protected Best Bid and Offer” or “PBBO” means the Best Protected Bid and the Best Protected Offer, as those terms are defined in Rule 600(b)(57) of Regulation NMS. See Rule 1.1(n).

- Order 4 is an incoming MPL-IOC Order to sell 100 shares at \$10.00. Order 4 would not trade with Order 3 (which is now ranked on the Exchange Book at its working price) at \$10.025 per proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii)(a) because an execution at that price would be at a price above displayed interest on the Exchange Book (Order 1 at \$10.02). Order 4, as an IOC Order, would be cancelled because it does not execute.
- Assume Order 1 is cancelled, and Order 5 is an incoming MPL-IOC Order to sell 100 shares at \$10.00. Order 5 would trade with Order 3 (where Order 3 is the liquidity provider) at \$10.025, consistent with proposed Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii), because the trade would execute at a price that is not above the price of any displayed or non-displayed interest on the Exchange Book, although it would be at the same price as Order 2 (non-displayed interest on the Exchange Book).⁷

The following example demonstrates how an MPL-ALO Order that is resting on the Exchange Book and subsequently becomes an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order (in this example, when the PBBO is updated) would trade, as proposed:

- Assume the PBBO is \$10.00 x \$10.05 (midpoint is \$10.025). Order 1 is a non-displayed Limit Order to sell 100 shares at \$10.03, resting on the Exchange Book at its working price of \$10.03. Order 2 is an MPL-ALO Order to buy 100 shares at \$10.05. Order 2 is resting non-displayed on the Exchange Book at its working price of \$10.025 (which is the midpoint, as the working price of an MPL-ALO Order to buy is the lower of the midpoint or the order's limit price).

⁷ As noted above, Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii), as amended, reflects current Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(ii), which provides that an MPL-ALO Order that is resting at the same price as resting non-displayed interest would be permitted to trade with a subsequently arriving order that is eligible to trade with that MPL-ALO Order, ahead of the non-displayed interest.

- Assume the PBBO updates to \$10.03 x \$10.05 (midpoint is \$10.04). Order 2 reprices to the new midpoint, \$10.04, and becomes an Aggressing Order because its working price has changed and the PBBO has updated. Order 2 will trade as an Aggressing Order (as the liquidity taker) with Order 1 at \$10.03 because it would receive \$0.01 price improvement over its working price.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to renumber current Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iii) as Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E)(iv) to reflect the addition of the new rule text described above, without any changes to the text of the rule.

The Exchange believes that the proposed change, which would allow an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order to trade only when it would receive price improvement over its working price of at least one MPV, would promote higher-quality executions for Participants and provide Participants with greater certainty regarding the amount of price improvement such executions would receive, thereby encouraging increased order flow to the Exchange and enhanced opportunities for order execution for all market participants. The Exchange notes that evaluating the economic benefit of an execution is not a novel concept on equity exchanges.⁸ Accordingly, the Exchange believes that this proposed change, which would consider the amount of price improvement that an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order would receive upon execution, would offer Participants a similar benefit to that available on at least one other equity exchange for an order type similar to the MPL-ALO Order and could thus promote competition among equity exchanges.

Because of the technology changes associated with this proposed rule change, the Exchange will announce the implementation date by Trader Update, which, subject to

⁸ See, e.g., Nasdaq Stock Market LLC, Equity 4, Rule 4702(b)(5)(A) (defining the Midpoint Peg Post-Only Order, which is priced at the midpoint between the NBBO and will execute upon entry only in circumstances where economically beneficial to the party entering such order).

effectiveness of this proposed rule change, will be no later than in the fourth quarter of 2024.

2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),¹⁰ in particular, because it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange believes that the proposed change would promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system, and protect investors and the public interest because allowing an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order to trade only when it would receive price improvement over its working price of at least one MPV would promote higher-quality executions for Participants, thereby encouraging increased order flow to the Exchange and enhanced trading opportunities for all market participants. The Exchange also believes that the proposed conforming changes to Rule 7.31(d)(3)(E) would remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system, and protect investors and the public interest by clarifying how Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders that would not be eligible to trade based on the amount of price improvement would be ranked and would trade once resting, in accordance with the Exchange's priority and ranking rules. Finally, the Exchange notes that considering the economic benefit of an execution is not a novel concept and believes that this proposed change would

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system by providing Participants with greater certainty as to the amount of price improvement they would receive when an Aggressing MPL-ALO Order executes, as well as by promoting competition among equity exchanges.¹¹

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change would amend Exchange rules to permit Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders to trade only when they would receive price improvement of at least one MPV over their working price, thereby providing a minimum amount of price improvement for Participants entering such orders. To the extent the proposed rule change promotes higher-quality executions on the Exchange, the proposed change could encourage increased order flow to the Exchange and facilitate additional trading opportunities for all market participants. In addition, at least one other equity exchange considers the economic benefit to the entering party when evaluating whether a similar order type may trade, and the Exchange's proposal would thus promote competition among exchanges by providing a minimum amount of price improvement to Aggressing MPL-ALO Orders.¹² The Exchange also believes that, to the extent the proposed change would increase opportunities for order execution, the proposed change would promote competition by making the Exchange a more attractive venue for order flow and enhancing market quality for all market participants.

¹¹ See note 8, supra.

¹² See note 8, supra.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act¹³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁴ Because the proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative prior to 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁵ normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),¹⁶ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B)¹⁷ of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-NYSECHX-2024-25 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-NYSECHX-2024-25. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NYSECHX-2024-25 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁸

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

¹⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Additions: Underlined
Deletions: [Bracketed]

Rules of NYSE Chicago, Inc.

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Rule 7 EQUITIES TRADING

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Section 3. Exchange Trading

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Rule 7.31. Orders and Modifiers

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(d) Orders with a Conditional or Undisplayed Price and/or Size

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(3) Mid-Point Liquidity Order (“MPL Order”). A Limit Order to buy (sell) that is not displayed and does not route, with a working price at the lower (higher) of the midpoint of the PBBO or its limit price. An MPL Order is ranked Priority 3- Non- Display Orders. MPL Orders are valid for any session.

(A) An MPL Order to buy (sell) must be designated with a limit price in the MPV for the security and will be eligible to trade at the working price of the order.

(B) If there is no PBB, PBO, or the PBBO is locked or crossed, both an arriving and resting MPL Order will wait for a PBBO that is not locked or crossed before being eligible to trade. If a resting MPL Order(s) to buy (sell) trades with MPL Order(s) to sell (buy) after there is an unlocked or uncrossed PBBO, the MPL Order with the later working time will be the liquidity-removing order.

(C) An Aggressing MPL Order to buy (sell) will trade at the working price of resting orders to sell (buy) when such resting orders have a working price at or below (above) the working price of the MPL Order. Resting MPL Orders to buy (sell) will trade against all Aggressing Orders to sell (buy) priced at or below (above) the working price of the MPL Order.

(D) An MPL Order may be designated IOC (“MPL-IOC Order”). Subject to such IOC instructions, an MPL-IOC Order will follow the same trading and priority rules as an MPL Order, except that an MPL-IOC Order will be rejected if there is no PBBO or the PBBO is locked or crossed. An MPL-IOC Order cannot be designated ALO or with a Non-Display Remove Modifier.

(E) An MPL Order may be designated with an ALO Modifier (“MPL-ALO Order”).

(i) An Aggressing MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) will trade at the working price of resting orders to sell (buy) when [such resting orders have a working price below (above) the less aggressive of the midpoint of the PBBO or the limit price of the MPL-ALO Order, but will not trade with resting orders to sell (buy) priced equal to the less aggressive of the midpoint of the PBBO or the limit price of the MPL-ALO Order] the MPL-ALO Order would receive price improvement over its working price of at least one MPV.

(ii) An MPL-ALO Order that is not eligible to trade as described in subparagraph (i) will be ranked in the Exchange Book at its working price and will not be eligible to trade:

(a) At a price equal to or above (below) any sell (buy) orders that are displayed and that have a working price equal to or below (above) the working price of such MPL-ALO Order;
or

(b) At a price above (below) any sell (buy) orders that are not displayed and that have a working price below (above) the working price of such MPL-ALO Order.

(iii) If an MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) cannot trade with a same-priced resting order to sell (buy) that is not displayed, a subsequently arriving order to sell (buy) eligible to trade at the working price of the MPL-ALO Order will trade ahead of [a] such resting order to sell (buy) [that is not displayed at that price. If such resting order to sell (buy) is displayed, the MPL-ALO Order to buy (sell) will not be eligible to trade at that price].

[(iii)] (iv) An MPL-ALO Order cannot be designated with a Non-Display Remove Modifier.